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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

WALSH, DANIEL I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

10/053,568

Applicant(s)

CHIANG, SHAN-HUI

Examiner

Daniel I Walsh

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobson et al. (US 5,055,079) in view of Nottingham et al. (US 6,585,581).

Re claim 1, Hobson et al. teaches a bank with a bank body comprising a top-open holding space defining at least one storage compartment, a top cover covering the bank body, the top cover comprising at least one coin slot and at least one coin passageway respectively downwardly extended from the coin slot and respectively disposed in communication with the storage compartment of the bank body through FIG. 1 and FIG. 2. Re claim 2, though Hobson et al. teaches that the top cover comprises a bottom coupling portion press fitted over (in surrounding relation) to a top open holding space of the bank body, and therefore does not teach the cover is press fitted into the bank body, at the time the invention was made, it would have been well within the skill in the art to have the cover narrower to permit press fitting into the cover, as such covers are well known and conventional in the art, for aesthetics for achieving a smooth outer fit/continuity of the edges. Such modification would have been an obvious matter of design variation, as having the cover fitted into the cover does not solve a particular function problem that is not addressed by the prior art. Re claim 3, Hobson et al. teaches that bank with various slots and or chambers for different coinage are well known and obvious (col 1, lines

20+). However, Hobson et al. is silent to the slots having different sizes to accommodate different coin sizes. Re claim 4, Hobson et al. teaches a plurality of partition plates separating the top open holding space into storage compartments (FIG. 1).

Hobson et al. fails to teach an electric circuit assembly installed in the top cover, the circuit assembly comprising a control circuit board, at least one sensor electrically connected to the control circuit board and respectively aimed at the at least one coin passageway and adapted to detect the value and number of coins passing through the at least one coin passageway and display means electrically connected to the control circuit board to display the value of individual and the coins received in the bank.

Nottingham et al. teaches a coin holder sorter device with an electric circuit assembly comprising a control circuit board and at least one sensor electrically connected to the circuit board and aimed at the coin passageway to detect the value and number of coins passing through the passageway and display means through FIG. 7. and FIG. 1. It is obvious that control system 102 includes a control circuit board as is conventional in the art and that the sensors are electrically connected accordingly. Nottingham et al. teaches the sensors 100 (infrared) in or adjacent the chutes count the number of each coin denomination and displays a count value and/or monetary value for each type of sorted coin (col 10, lines 30+). Though Nottingham et al. teaches a count value and monetary value for each type of sorted coin, it is well within the skill in the art to display the value of each coin and the sum of coins, as a count value and monetary value is already displayed, and simply computing a tally/total amount to be displayed would have been an obvious expedient for providing more information about the coins. Further, it is well known to display such sum and individual coin information, as Moblak et al. ((US

6,484,863), col 19, lines 35+). Though Nottingham et al. is silent to the electric circuit being disposed in the top cover, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art that electrical circuits can be located in different orientations and locations. Simply locating the circuit in the top cover would have been an obvious design variation, as it serves no particular function and solves no particular functional problem that cannot be taught by the prior art. Re claim 5, though Nottingham et al. is silent to teaching the sensors are soldered to the circuit, at the time the invention was made, soldering was a well known and conventional means to effect electrical contact between electrical devices.

Accordingly, it would have been within the skill in the art to solder connect such electronic devices, in order to effect an electrical connection, as is well known and conventional in the art.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Hobson et al. with those of Nottingham et al.

One would have been motivated to do this in order to have a coin storage device that can visually display information to the user for convenience.

Re claim 3, Nottingham et al. teaches the use of various sized slots to sort the coin, as is well known and conventional in the art (col 5, lines 43+), where one slot at the top of the device accepts all coins, and they are subsequently sorted into their denomination, by slots/apertures, thus adding convenience to the user by providing a universal slot for coin input. Accordingly, since it was well known to sort coins for convenience of storage and tallying, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to replace the universal coin slot with the slots of varying size since it is well within the skill in the art to provide a manual means to replace a well known activity. Consequently, replacing the

automatic coin sorting means, with manual sorting means (as taught by Hobson et al. (col 1, lines 20+), would have been an obvious modification over the prior art of Coller (as set forth in Hobson et al.), as a means to provide manual sorting means.

2. Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobson et al. as modified by Nottingham et al., as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Moblak et al. (US 6,484,863) and Yu (US Des 332,168).

The teachings of Hobson et al./Nottingham et al. have been discussed above.

Hobson et al./Nottingham et al. fail to teach the display means comprises a reset button for reset control and a selector button for operation mode control to select between a clock mode and an amount counting mode.

Moblak et al. teaches a keypad of the display means has a standard 12-key numeric keypad 1844 and one or more key switches 1846, such as key switches for "Go," "Cancel, " and the like. Cancel is interpreted as a reset control. It is well within the skill in the art for the keypad to be integrated into the display itself, as a touch screen, for user convenience and reduction of parts, as is conventional in the art. Moblak fails to teach a clock.

Yu teaches a clock with the piggy bank, through FIG. 1.

Though Moblak et al./Yu are silent to a button to select a mode between a clock mode and a counting mode, and instead teach a clock as part of a coin bank and a GO button, at the time the invention was made, buttons/keypads for control interface means were well known and conventional, and clock display means on electronic devices (microwaves, for example) were well known and conventional. Further, it is well known and conventional that simply pressing a GO or COOK button of a microwave will initiate the functioning of the device, or in the case of

Moblak et al., the counting operation, and pressing a CANCEL button will cancel/end/reset the operation. Therefore, simply using a button means as a way to effect a mode would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art, as a well-known and conventional way of switching between interfaces/modes. Thus, providing a button to select between a clock mode and a counting mode (both which are well known and obvious) would have been obvious as a matter of user convenience.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Hobson et al./Nottingham et al. with those of Moblak et al. and Yu.

One would have been motivated to do this to have a coin bank with a clock means, as is well known and conventional in the art, to provide added functionality of the coin bank, to a user.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hobson et al. as modified by Nottingham et al., as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Bryenton et al. (US 5,692,068).

The teachings of Hobson et al./Nottingham et al. have been discussed above.

Hobson et al./Nottingham et al. fail to teach a voice broadcasting system to broadcast the value of the coin currently inserted through the coin slot and the sum of total coins received, though the prior art teaches the displaying of such quantities.

It is well known and conventional that piggy banks and coin machines are configured to produce noises upon coin insertion (Woods US 6,454,570). Specifically, Bryenton et al. teaches the audible output of announcing the denomination of banknotes (see claim 6).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Hobson et al./Nottingham et al. with those of Bryenton et al.

One would have been motivated to do this to provide audible notification to the user of the values of coins inserted to provide value information to the user.

Though Bryenton et al. is drawn towards announcing the banknote value as determined by a banknote reader, and is silent to coins, nonetheless, Bryenton et al. teaches the broadcasting of money values. Further, audible messages are well known and conventional in the art. Especially since the prior art teachings of Hobson et al./Nottingham et al. teach the determination and display of the values, simply broadcasting such values audibly would be well within the skill in the art, especially in light of Bryenton. Therefore, broadcasting the individual and total value of coinage (which is already stored and displayed as taught by Hobson et al./Nottingham et al.) would have been obvious in light of the audible currency messages of Bryenton et al.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Woods (US 6,454,570), Coller (Des 127,448), Menke (US 3,825,729), Hallman et al. (US 5,347,473), Lare (US 5,193,629), Ma et al. (US 6,109,996), Sugimoto et al. (US 4,374,557), Cypher (US 3,720,346), Hall (US 4,153,197), Farber (US 4,495,959), Liao (US 5,304,084), and Sai (JP0200210036A).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Walsh whose telephone number is (703) 305-1001. The

examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for this Group is (703) 308-7722, (703) 308-7724, or (703) 308-7382.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to **[daniel.walsh@uspto.gov]**.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DIW
7/3/03



KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER